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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
OF  
NORTH CAROLINA,  
TO THE  
BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

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In presenting a summary of the labors of the year now about to close, in this interesting department of christian effort, we record, with peculiar satisfaction, the tokens of God's favor and blessing. The unsettled state of the public mind, the perplexing and embarrassing influences of poverty and debt, the losses of our churches in strength and piety, devotion and zeal, have all been felt, with much force, by the cause of Sunday schools. But this year is drawing to its close under far more favorable circumstances than did the last, and there is abundant cause for sincere gratitude to our merciful Heavenly Father, and for encouragement to us to press forward in the work of training the young for Christ.

CAUSES FOR GRATITUDE.

Among these may be named the immense increase in the number of schools and attendants. There are no reliable data on which to base an accurate estimate of this increase, but a moderate calculation of present strength places the whole number of schools under control of Baptists at over 600, and the number of officers, teachers and pupils, at about 40,000. This is believed to be rather below, than above, the actual numbers.

The large number of conversions among the attendants of

these schools may also be named. Our statistics on this point are not full or accurate, but sufficient is known to warrant the conviction that five-sevenths of all the conversions among Baptists in our State, during this year, have been among regular attendants of Sabbath schools. The influence of the schools upon the active piety of the churches is manifest, in the organization of regular prayer-meetings, increased interest in sacred singing, discussion of plans of systematic contributions, diffusion of religious reading, and the reading and studying of God's Holy Word.

#### CAUSES FOR ENCOURAGEMENT.

The wide-spread awakening of interest in the subject; the general disposition of our people to study the work in all its bearings and aspects, and to incorporate every valuable improvement with our present systems; the disposition to banish and avoid routine; the hearty co-operation of men of all professions and various views and interests; the readiness with which, merely moral men—men of the world, engage in the cause; and the eagerness of the young to avail themselves of the benefits flowing from a well conducted Sabbath school, are not the most important of these causes. Other and greater causes may be found in the blessedness of laboring for the Master in a cause which He has blessed in so eminent a degree, that of training the youth of the land to love the Savior and to labor for Him in the freshness and vigor of life's morning.

#### PLAN OF OPERATIONS.

Attempts have been made to organize the entire Baptist forces in the State, through the district Associations, by the appointment of Sunday School Missionaries, general Superintendents, or S. S. Committees in each Association, to have general direction and control of the work, each in his own field or district, it being specially desired that a permanent Convention be organized for each district, and that all destitute places be carefully searched out and supplied with schools. These attempts have been eminently successful, and now almost the entire territory covered by the Baptist State Convention, is thus placed in sympathy and active co-operation with our Association. The Corresponding Secretary, in the



prosecution of these plans, attended the last session of the Western Baptist Convention and of two Associations connected with that body. From causes not now necessary to be named, our churches in that region are working under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union. The two Associations named above, made a request to the Western Convention to appoint a general Superintendent of Sabbath Schools for that body, to co-operate with our body, but owing to opposition in influential quarters, that body failed to make such appointment. There is, however, a large number of influential brethren among the Baptists of that section, who earnestly desire to introduce Baptist material into their schools, and to adopt some general plan of organization for the Baptists as such in the territory covered by the Western Convention. Is it asking too much of the Baptists of this Convention, to beg that they enable us to appoint at least two missionaries in that region? There is every assurance that such appointment would give satisfaction, and that a considerable part of their support could be raised in their respective fields of labor.

#### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED.

In the general work of our Association, the principal difficulties have been found in the financial and political troubles of the times, poverty and debt, repeated failures of crops, a certain degree of demoralization among our churches and other religious bodies, discouragement and gloom in many hearts, and inability or indisposition to contribute money to aid the Association in the prosecution of its plans. In the work itself, among the churches and schools, the chief difficulty has been the want of competent Superintendents and teachers to carry on the work. The former causes may be removed or weakened in their force by the gradual return of order and the supremacy of civil law, a brighter day of prosperity, and the Grace of God in the hearts of his people; but the latter can only be overcome by years of patient perseverance and labor, the frequent assembling of teachers for the diffusion of information, mutual encouragement, and discussion. Of the correctness of our plans and their adaptedness to overcome the

obstacles named, we are fully convinced, and therefore feel determined to persevere in the course marked out.

#### WORK PERFORMED.

Nearly all the funds used by the Association in its operations have been contributed by members of the Baptist Church and congregation in the city of Raleigh, over \$1,650 having been obtained from that source alone. The total amount of funds raised during the year by those employed by the Association is \$2,580.96, of which \$837.09 were obtained by Bro. Robert S. Prichard, and were contributed for specified objects, such as Associational Missions in the Pamlico Association, or in the particular district where they were raised, as will be shown under the proper head in this report. The labors of the Corresponding Secretary have been directed more to organizing schools and conventions and forwarding the work in different portions of the State than to raising money, trusting that the Sunday School Association would share, in common with the other objects of the Convention the contributions of the churches. But a very limited number remembered us in distributing their gifts. The most gratifying results have followed the labors bestowed upon the organization of schools. In one region of country, about 30 miles in length, where there were, last year, not more than 200 persons engaged in two Sunday Schools, there have been this year, more than 2,500, and most of the schools have been visited with gracious revivals, resulting in the conversion of over 200 souls. Surely God has condescended to bless those engaged in this work.

#### BROTHER PRICHARD'S LABORS.

Providence directed me first to the Pamlico Association. Thirteen counties are embraced in this body; only one-eighth of their territory, however, is occupied by Baptists; much of it by no denomination. Preaching of some kind is accessible to many of the adults, but in the portion visited by me, 400 square miles lying between the Neuse and Pamlico rivers, the children are fearfully neglected, scarcely one out of 100, of the thousands of little ones here, knowing enough of Christ to believe on him; nor are they likely to find out more from their



parents. To a majority of them, Jesus is a name coupled only with profanity. Can the Sunday School Association accomplish anything here? I believe the whole youth of this whole region could now be won over to the truth as held by Baptists, and a deep, broad foundation laid for rebuilding the Lord's house in this part of the State. There is not only no opposition, but an eager desire on the part of old and young for the organization of Sunday Schools. Not a man, woman, or child was disposed to hinder my efforts. The ground is almost unoccupied by other denominations, and we have only to enter and take possession. A few men can accomplish a vast work, for a single missionary may organize and oversee a large number of schools.

God has often blessed this peculiar means in working wonderful results

During the three weeks of my stay here, I organized three schools, and there were unlimited calls for others. I left the Association, convinced that the people and the children are ready, and the Lord is waiting to bless.

In the West, some days were spent with the United Baptist and Lewis Fork Associations. A small portion only of these churches report Sunday Schools, but the brethren are arousing. Two faithful missionaries were appointed.

In the Chowan Association, an enthusiasm, not fitful, but I trust, deep and steady, pervades that region, and shows fruit in much earnest Sunday School labor.

With these results, from a very limited expenditure of men and money, what may we not hope for, with an earnest, extended, united, powerful effort? "Jehovah Nissi." The Lord is our banner. Let us, therefore, go up and possess the Old North State, for we are fully able.

The liberality of many of the churches visited by me, deserves especial mention. No cause, I believe, appeals so powerfully to the hearts and purses of good men, as this labor for the souls of children. My time, while employed by the Association, has been occupied as follows:

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Miles traveled, . . . . .                       | 1565 |
| Sermons preached, . . . . .                     | 17   |
| Addresses of various kinds delivered, . . . . . | 32   |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Sunday Schools organized,.....                           | 6   |
| Missionaries instrumental in setting to work,.....       | 3   |
| Students influenced to go to Wake Forest,.....           | 3   |
| Persons addressed at social worship and in conversation, | 230 |
| Sunday Schools visited,.....                             | 10  |
| Prayer-meetings attended,.....                           | 11  |

Money raised in cash, and pledges for missions in the Pamlico Association, as follows :

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| At Moseley Hall Church,..... | \$ 38 00 |
| “ Potecasi, “ .....          | 100 00   |
| “ Edenton, “ .....           | 9 65     |
| “ Shiloh “ .....             | 53 00    |
| “ Sawyer’s Creek “ .....     | 110 00   |
| “ Greenville “ .....         | 106 18   |
| “ Wake Forest “ .....        | 129 70   |

Other amounts, and for other purposes, as follows :

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| For Biblical Recorder, .....                   | \$ 6 00 |
| “ Repairs on old church,.....                  | 8 00    |
| “ Sunday School Books, .....                   | 23 00   |
| At Newberne Church,.....                       | 11 00   |
| “ Goldsboro’ “ .....                           | 11 35   |
| “ Smithfield “ .....                           | 45 71   |
| “ United Baptist Association for Mission,..... | 52 00   |
| “ Lewis Fork “ “ “ .....                       | 122 00  |
| For Beneficiaries at Wake Forest,.....         | 11 50   |

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R. S. PRICHARD.

#### PLANS, WANTS, &C.

Much has been done, but more remains for us to do. We should not be satisfied with less than a number of Sunday School workers at least equal to the full number of church members. If there are 70,000 Baptists in North Carolina, then we ought to report to the next session of the Convention a like or greater number of persons actively engaged in the Sunday Schools. This can be done. A vigorous, earnest, united effort on the part of those now engaged in the work, with the divine favor, will accomplish it. Then we should not stop short of a well conducted school in every church.



This is now almost realized. A comparatively small number of our churches are still without schools. These must be supplied. Some of our Associations are yet without organized Conventions. Some of our Ministers are still indifferent, (to use a mild term,) to the progress of the Sunday School work. There are two important fields, named elsewhere in this report, that ought to be occupied at once by active agents or colporteurs from our Association.

To enable us to carry on the work so auspiciously begun, we must have the confidence, the sympathy, the co-operation, and the contributions of our brethren throughout the State. We feel that we are not presumptuous in asking that the contributions of the churches and Associations may hereafter be divided in such way as to include the Sunday School cause, and that good brethren and sisters remember us kindly and send us unasked gifts accompanied with the fervent prayer for a blessing on us and the gift. We also ask that brethren and sisters identify themselves with us by constituting themselves members of our Association by contributions of money, and that churches and Sunday schools testify their regard for faithful pastors, superintendents, or teachers by raising a sufficient sum to make them members. One hundred dollars contributed in this way will make your pastor a life-member of the Association, and place his name on the Book of Remembrance, which will perpetuate the name and preserve a brief biography of all such members. Five dollars entitles its contributor to membership for five years, also to a beautiful and appropriate certificate, and a place in another book kept for the purpose. One dollar entitles its contributor to annual membership, and the names of these are all kept in a neat record book. In the city of Raleigh, there are 14 life members by their own contributions; the Raleigh Baptist Church made their Pastor one; the Baptist Sunday School in the same city made their Superintendent one; the Church and Sunday School at Wake Forest made the beloved President of the College one; at a Sunday School Convention at Ahoskie Church, Prof. James A. Delke was made a life-member; the Church at Sawyer's Creek contributed over 100 dollars to make their beloved Pastor, Eld. J. D. Hufham, a life-member;

the Pamlico Association, at Greenville, gave over 100 dollars to make their Missionary, Eld. C. J. Nelson, a life-member; the Lewis Fork Association gave over 100 dollars to make their Missionary, Bro. C. C. Poole, a life-member. Will not other churches and schools follow these generous examples? We commend this feature of the Association to our brethren, and invite them to come to our aid. "The harvest truly is plenteous." The fields are already white. The work is delightful. The reward is sure. Less expenditure of men and means is required to carry on this work than any other department of Christian effort. It is in our midst. The cause is a meritorious one. None will deny this. Help, brethren, and may the blessing of God attend the labors of his people in this, as in the other objects which we are met to promote.

It will doubtless be a gratifying fact, that the Association is entirely out of debt, and every effort will be made to keep it so.

Very truly yours in Christ,

B. W. JUSTICE,

*Cor. Sec'y.*



## PROCEEDINGS.

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NEWBERN, N. C., Saturday evening Nov. 13, 1869.

According to arrangements previously made by the Baptist State Convention, the Baptist Sunday School Association of N. C., held its Annual Session in the Baptist Church, in this city, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

Rev. Dr. Pritchard, of Raleigh, was called to preside as temporary President, and Rev. G. W. Sanderlin, Secretary, *pro. tem.*

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. Rev. J. C. Hiden and B. W. Justice, were named as tellers. The balloting resulted in the choice of the following officers :

### PRESIDENT :

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Esq., of Raleigh.

### VICE PRESIDENTS :

|                            |                  |              |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Prof. James A. Delke,      | of Chowan        | Association. |
| Rev. G. W. Sanderlin,      | " Pamlico        | "            |
| Hon. C. C. Clarke,         | " Eastern        | "            |
| Rev. Jas. McDaniel, D. D., | " Cedar Creek    | "            |
| Dr. W. C. Lankford,        | " Tar River      | "            |
| Rev. R. H. Marsh,          | " Flat River     | "            |
| Col. J. M. Heck,           | " Central        | "            |
| James Poteat, Esq.,        | " Beulah         | "            |
| Rev. A. J. Emerson,        | " Sandy Creek    | "            |
| " James Jordan,            | " Peedee         | "            |
| S. O. Tatum, Esq.,         | " Yadkin         | "            |
| Rev. J. B. Richardson,     | " Liberty        | "            |
| Gen. C. W. Clarke,         | " United Baptist | "            |
| Rev. T. B. Justice,        | " Green River    | "            |
| Hicks Hendren, Esq.,       | " Brier Creek    | "            |
| Rev. James Poole,          | " Lewis Fork     | "            |

|                      |                   |   |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|
| " E. C. Williams,    | " Rocky River     | " |
| " A. R. Pittman,     | " Cape Fear       | " |
| " W. B. Harrell,     | " Raleigh         | " |
| " J. H. Yarborough,  | " King's Mountain | " |
| J. S. Bridges, Esq., | " Catawba River   | " |
| P. H. McDade, "      | " Orange          | " |

Recording Secretary, Jas. C. Marcom.

Treasurer, Maj. W. W. Vass.

Addresses were made on the subject of the Sunday School work by Revs. J. C. Hiden, of Wilmington, A. J. Emerson, of Chatham, T. H. Pritchard, D. D., of Raleigh, and Hon. C. C. Clarke, of Newbern.

Opportunity was then given for any persons wishing to become members of the Association, when the following persons availed themselves of the opportunity by contributing the sums respectively set opposite their names:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Rev. T. R. Owen,.....                                 | \$1 00 |
| " J. S. Purefoy,.....                                 | 1 00   |
| " J. H. Freeman,.....                                 | 1 00   |
| " A. J. Emerson,.....                                 | 1 00   |
| " R. H. Marsh,.....                                   | 2 00   |
| " B. F. Hester,.....                                  | 1 00   |
| Youth's Missionary Society of Newbern Baptist Church, | 2 50   |
| Rev. Jesse Wheeler,.....                              | 3 50   |

After devotional exercises, the Association adjourned *sine die*.

T. H. PRITCHARD,

*President, pro. tem.*

G. W. SANDERLIN, *Secretary, pro. tem.*



## CONSTITUTION.

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1. The name of this organization shall be "The Baptist Sunday School Association of N. C."

2. The objects of this Association shall be to assist Sunday Schools in organizing on a proper and permanent basis; to organize Sunday School Conventions in every district Association in the State, and to aid in the judicious selection and general circulation of Sunday School text-books and literature.

3. The officers of this Association, consisting of a President, a Vice-President from every co-operating district Association, a Treasurer, an Auditor, a Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary shall be chosen annually, by ballot, and shall discharge such duties as usually appertain to their respective offices, and such as the Association may assign them.

4. There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of five members, chosen by ballot, who shall have the general management of the affairs of the Association.

5. The times and places of the regular meetings shall be determined by the Association, but special meetings may be held at the call of the President.

6. Dr. Mell's Manuel of Parliamentary Practice shall constitute the rules of order of this Association.

7. The membership of this Association shall consist of three classes—those who pay one dollar shall become members for one year, those paying five dollars, shall be members for five years, and those who pay one hundred dollars, shall be members for life.

8. All members of this Association shall be entitled to vote on all questions which pertain to its interests.

9. This Constitution shall be amended only by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting.













